

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: July 28, 2010

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:35 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:47 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Benjamin Hunter, Chair
Vernon Brown
Bob Cockrum
Mary Moriarty Adams
William Oliver
Marilyn Pfisterer
Christine Scales

Absent Members

Ryan Vaughn

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 213, 2010 - appoints Clark G. Rehme to the Animal Care and Control Board
"Postponed" until September 1, 2010

Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 214, 2010 - approves a crime prevention initiative grant award in the amount of \$39,000 to IMAC-Hightower Development and Training Center as recommended by the Crime Prevention Advisory Board and as approved by the Mayor
"Do Pass"

Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 215, 2010 - elects to fund the operations of the public communications system and computer facilities district in 2011 with County Option Income Tax (COIT) revenues
"Do Pass"

Vote: 6-1

PROPOSAL NO. 224, 2010 - amends the Code to revise procedures for approval of drug free community fund expenditures
"Postponed" until September 1, 2010

Vote: 7-0

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Chair Benjamin Hunter called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with the following members present: Vernon Brown, Bob Cockrum, Mary Moriarty Adams, William Oliver, Marilyn Pfisterer, and Christine Scales. Absent was Ryan Vaughn.

Chair Hunter asked for consent to consider postponing Proposal Nos. 213 and 224, 2010.

PROPOSAL NO. 213, 2010 - appoints Clark G. Rehme to the Animal Care and Control Board

PROPOSAL NO. 224, 2010 - amends the Code to revise procedures for approval of drug free community fund expenditures

Councillor Brown moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to "Postpone" Proposal Nos. 213 and 224, 2010 until September 1, 2010. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 214, 2010 - approves a crime prevention initiative grant award in the amount of \$39,000 to IMAC-Hightower Development and Training Center as recommended by the Crime Prevention Advisory Board and as approved by the Mayor

Councillor Pfisterer said that she had the privilege of being part of one of the second classes that this particular training center offered, and it involved training ex-offenders in construction jobs, including electrical work, plumbing, and building. She said that she's been involved in ex-offender training and passionately believes in it. She said that she is happy to support this proposal.

Councillor Brown agreed with Councillor Pfisterer, and stated that the crime prevention money needs to be spent on jobs, including jobs for youth. He said that the City moved in this direction this year with the help of Councillors Hunter and Vaughn. He asked if the Crime Prevention Advisory Board or the people who received grants last year will come before this committee to present their report of last year's results. Chair Hunter answered that he would like to have someone report to the Committee, as he is a big believer in accountability and evaluations.

Councillor Oliver said that he is familiar with part of the program, and has been to observe the program a couple of times. He said, as Councillor Pfisterer stated, the program offers job training and preparation, and he supports the proposal.

Councillor Scales asked who will be administering the program and how many years they have been doing this type of work. Councillor Pfisterer said that she is not familiar with the current administering group, because it was previously under Rudy Hightower, but Mr. Hightower passed away. She said the program is administered in the construction realm, so that the supplies that it takes for the training are used for actual jobs. Councillor Scales asked if the requested money is to provide for the equipment and supplies and not to start up the program. Councillor Pfisterer answered that this is correct and this is not a new program. Councillor Oliver said that the program will be implemented by the Devington Community Development Corporation, under the direction of Sharon Arnold. He said it is a continuation.

Councillor Scales said that the full Council just recently voted for additional funds to be given to the Devington Community Development Corporation, and it also had something to do with Mr. Hightower's passing. She asked if this request is for additional funds. Councillor Oliver answered in the negative, and stated that this request is for an allocation of a crime prevention grant award that was recommended by the Crime Prevention Advisory Board. He said that Mr. Hightower was very instrumental in receiving these grant funds and carrying out the program. He said he believes that this is a result of Councillor Vaughn meeting with Councillor Bateman and Ms. Arnold to work out the details on how the grant money would be spent and allocated. Councillor Scales said that she is familiar with the Devington Community association and they are doing an incredible job in a lot of areas. She said that she supports the proposal.

Councillor Pfisterer moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to forward Proposal No. 214, 2010 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 215, 2010 - elects to fund the operations of the public communications system and computer facilities district in 2011 with County Option Income Tax (COIT) revenues

Jason Dudich, Deputy Controller, Office of Finance and Management (OFM), said that this proposal is a historical proposal that has been done for several years. He said that the consolidated city and county, pursuant to state law, may elect to take a portion of the annual COIT distribution to fund Public Safety communication operations. He said this proposal allows an allocation of \$9.9 million to be used for this purpose.

Chair Hunter asked if this is the same amount as last year. Mr. Dudich answered in the affirmative, and stated that it has been \$9.9 million for the last several years.

Councillor Scales asked if these funds are to maintain the programs that are already in place or to purchase new computer systems. Mr. Dudich answered that the funds will be used to run the current operations for the Public Safety Communication system, such as dispatch operations, technology, and staffing.

Chair Hunter asked if this affects Perry Township or Beech Grove. Mr. Dudich answered in the negative, and stated that this only covers the public safety operations for Marion County and Indianapolis.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Pfisterer, to forward Proposal No. 215, 2010 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-1, with Councillor Brown casting the negative vote.

Councillor Brown asked to explain his vote. He said that he sent an e-mail to City Controller David Reynolds last week asking about the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) recruit class that did not have sufficient funds to be put in place this year. He said he does not know if this is true, but some of the Councillors took a lot of heat for raising the COIT a couple of years ago. He said that he has supported this funding in the past, and would like to support it this year. Councillor Brown asked if, before the full Council meeting, OFM can provide him with an account of all of the COIT revenues for the last two years, and how they have been distributed back to public safety. Mr. Dudich answered in the affirmative. Councillor

Brown said that he would just like to ensure that the money is being spent wisely. Mr. Dudich asked if Councillor Brown is referring to the public safety portion of the COIT. Councillor Brown answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Moriarty Adams asked if OFM can confirm that IMPD will not hire a recruit class this year. Mr. Dudich answered that they are currently in discussion with IMPD regarding what their 2011 budget will and will not include. He said at this time, he cannot confirm whether or not there will be a recruit class, but that information will likely be given with Mayor Greg Ballard's budget presentation.

Councillor Brown said that he was under the impression that IMPD was budgeted for two recruit classes in 2010, but he is not sure if they have had two classes. He said that he would like a follow-up on how much was budgeted this year for recruits and hiring and where IMPD is in the process. Chair Hunter said that IMPD has had two recruit classes, and he believes they may possibly have had three. Mr. Dudich said that he believes that there was a very early recruit class in February, 2010 that was funded through a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant. He said that he will obtain that information and provide it to the Committee. Chair Hunter clarified that he believes that there has only been one recruit class for the current year 2010, and that class may be close to graduating. However, for 2009, he believes that there may have been three recruit classes as he previously stated.

Chair Hunter said that he will also arrange a meeting between himself, Councillor Brown, Frank Straub, Director, Department of Public Safety (DPS), and any others necessary.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Hunter, Chair
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

BH/nsd